

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 01158 170714Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01
/041 W

----- 040075 /14

P R 170630Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5537
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAHIGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 1158

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, BE, LU
SUBJECT: NSSM 243 PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN OFFICE OF DEFENSE
COOPERATION-BELLUX

REF: STATE 289655

I HAVE REVIEWED THE PROPOSED FY 77 AND NSSM 243 MANNING FOR
ODC-BELLUX (REFTEL) WITH CONSIDERABLE CONCERN. I BELIEVE IT IS
POSSIBLE THAT THE INTERESTS OF THIS EMBASSY AND THE GOVERNMENT
OF LUXEMBOURG MAY NOT HAVE BEEN FULLY TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION
IN THE MANNING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ODC-BELLUX. LUXEMBOURG HAS
DEPENDDED ON THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE MAAG/ODC-BELLUX FOR OVER
26 YEARS TO HELP THE LUXEMBOURG ARMY ACHIEVE AN ACCEPTABLE
LEVEL OF COMPETENCE. ALTHOUGH LUXEMBOURG'S CONTRIBUTION TO
THE ACE MOBILE FORCE IS LESS THAN SACEUR SHOULD EXPECT,
LUXEMBOURG DOES CONTRIBUTE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN
MAINTAINED LARGELY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF OUR SECURITY
ASSISTANCE SUPPORT. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE ODC CAN
CONTINUE TO SERVE THIS EMBASSY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LUXEMBOURG
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UNDER THE PROPOSED PERSONNEL LIMITATIONS. I AM NOT ASKING THAT
AN ODC BE ESTABLISHED AT THIS EMBASSY, AS WE HAVE BEEN WELL
SERVED BY ODC-BELLUX. I WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT ODC-
BELLUX WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE
AMOUNT OF SUPPORT HERE. I HOPE AMBASSADOR FIRESTONE SHARES
THESE VIEWS, AND I KNOW HE WILL CONTINUE, AS THE EMBASSY AND

MAAG/BRUSSELS HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, TO LOOK AFTER OUR INTERESTS
IN THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AREA. TO DO THIS, IN MY VIEW,
IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SECURE ODC MANNING AT A LEVEL ADEQUATE
TO SUPPORT BOTH OF OUR INTERESTS. GINN

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